

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, EASTERN DIVISION**

Alonso Esqueda, individually and on behalf of
other employees similarly situated, Plaintiff
v.
Ridge Country Club, Defendant

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, Alonso Esqueda, individually, and on behalf of other employees similarly situated, (hereinafter, “Plaintiff”) through counsel, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, commonly known as the Fair Labor Standards Act (hereinafter, “FLSA”), and 820 ILCS § 105/1 *et seq.*, commonly known as the Illinois Minimum Wage Law (hereinafter “IMWL”), and complains against Ridge Country Club (“Defendant”), and in support of this Complaint, states:

INTRODUCTION

1. This action seeks redress for Defendant’s willful violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* (“FLSA”), the Illinois Minimum Wage Law, 820 ILCS § 105/1 *et seq.* (“IMWL”), Defendant’s failure to pay Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in a week.
2. Upon information and belief, Defendant has failed to keep proper time records tracking Plaintiff’s time worked and have failed to post a notice of rights.
3. Defendant’s unlawful compensation practices have, and have had, the effect of denying Plaintiff and other similarly situated Plaintiffs their earned and living wages.
4. Plaintiff’s FLSA collective action consent form is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. This Honorable Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the federal wage claims through 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) (FLSA), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and 28 U.S.C. §1337 (actions arising under acts of Congress relating to commerce). This Honorable Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the Illinois wage claims through 28 U.S.C. § 1367 because they are so related to Plaintiff's claim within such original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.
6. Venue is properly placed in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, through 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), because the facts and events giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in this judicial district.

THE PARTIES

Plaintiff

7. Plaintiff resides in and is domiciled in, and was employed by Defendant in Cook County, which is in this judicial district.
8. During the course of his employment, Plaintiff handled goods that moved or that were intended to move in interstate commerce and was an "employee" as defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §201 et seq., and the IMWL, 820 ILCS 105/1 et seq.

Defendants

9. Defendant Tsukiji is an entity doing business within this judicial district and is an "enterprise" as defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(r)(1), engaged in commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 203(s)(1)(A).
10. Based on information and belief, Defendant Tsukiji has annual gross sales of \$500,000.00 or more.

11. Plaintiff, and other similarly-situated employees of Defendant, handled goods which moved in interstate commerce.
12. Defendant Tsukiji was Plaintiff's "employer" as that term is defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d), and the IMWL, 820 ILCS § 105/3.

FACTS

13. Plaintiff worked for Defendant from April, 2003 until August 5, 2014.
14. Plaintiff was employed by Defendant as a maintenance worker.
15. Throughout the course of Plaintiff's employment with Defendant, Defendant scheduled Plaintiff to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week in one or more individual work weeks.
16. Throughout the course of Plaintiff's employment with Defendant, Plaintiff did work in excess of forty (40) hours per week in one or more individual work weeks.
17. In the three (3) years prior to Plaintiff filing his Complaint, other putative class members employed by Defendant also worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week.
18. Defendant paid Plaintiff his wages at an hourly rate of \$11.75 per hour.
19. Although Defendant scheduled Plaintiff to work in excess of forty (40) hours per week, Defendant did not pay Plaintiff overtime wages at a rate of one and one-half times his regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours.
20. Instead, Defendants would pay Plaintiff his regular, straight-time hourly rate of pay for hours worked in excess of forty hours in one or more individual work weeks.
21. Plaintiff's wages were not based on the number of jobs performed or completed, nor was it based on the quality or efficiency of his performance.

22. Neither Plaintiff nor the class members are exempt from the overtime provisions of the FLSA, or the IMWL.

23. Defendant failed to pay Plaintiff or the class members a rate not less than one and a half (1.5) times the regular rate at which they were employed when they worked over forty (40) hours in a given workweek.

COUNT I: VIOLATION OF THE FLSA: Overtime Wages

24. Plaintiff re-incorporates by this reference all allegations from all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

25. Plaintiff and the members of the class were directed by Defendant to work, and did so work, in excess of forty (40) hours per week.

26. Defendant did not compensate Plaintiff or members of the class at a rate of at least one and one-half (1.5) times their regular hourly rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours in their individual workweeks.

27. Defendant's failure and refusal to pay overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week violated the FLSA.

28. Defendant's failure and refusal to pay overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week was a willful violation of the FLSA.

29. Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees are entitled to recover unpaid overtime wages for up to three (3) years before the filing of this lawsuit.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

- A. Determine that this action may be maintained as a collective action pursuant to the FLSA.
- B. Enter a judgment in the amount of unpaid overtime wages for all time worked by Plaintiff and other similarly situated employees over forty (40) hours in individual work weeks;

- C. Award liquidated damages in an amount equal to the amount of unpaid overtime wages;
- D. Declare Defendant to be in violation of the FLSA;
- E. Enjoin Defendant from violating the FLSA;
- F. Award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- G. Grant such additional or alternative relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II: VIOLATION OF THE ILLINOIS MINIMUM WAGE LAW: Overtime Wages

30. Plaintiff re-incorporates by this reference all allegations from all preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

31. This Count arises from Defendant's failure to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for all time worked in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks in violation of the IMWL.

32. Defendant directed Plaintiff to work, and Plaintiff did work, in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks, up to fifty four (54) hours in individual work weeks.

33. Plaintiff was entitled to be paid overtime wages for all time worked in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks.

34. Defendant did not pay Plaintiff overtime wages for all time worked in excess of forty (40) hours in individual work weeks.

35. Defendant violated the IMWL by failing to pay Plaintiff overtime wages for all hours worked in individual work weeks.

36. Pursuant to 820 ILCS 105/12(a), Plaintiff is entitled to recover unpaid wages for three (3) years before the filing of this suit.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully request that this Honorable Court:

- A. Enter a judgment in the amount of overtime wages due to Plaintiff as provided by the IMWL;

- B. Award Statutory damages for Plaintiff pursuant to the formula set forth in 820 ILCS § 105/12(a) and 815 ILCS § 205/2;
- C. Declare that Defendant has violated the IMWL;
- D. Enjoin Defendant from violating the IMWL;
- E. Award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of this action as provided by the IMWL; and
- F. Grant such other and further relief as this Honorable Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ David E. Stevens

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